

## **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

### **F A C T   S H E E T**

#### **APPROVE EXPENDITURES FOR ANOTHER KIND OF VALOR CONFERENCE (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

#### **SUBJECT**

Request approval to expend funds to co-host Another Kind of Valor Conference on March 1, 2010, with the Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System and the Veterans Affairs Desert Pacific Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center, at the Brentwood Veterans Affairs Theatre to coordinate community partnerships and improve access to services.

#### **REQUEST**

Authorize the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to expend fund to conduct Another Kind of Valor Conference to be held March 1, 2010, co-hosted with the Veterans Affairs (VA) Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System and the VA Desert Pacific Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC), at an estimated total cost to DMH of \$9,000, fully funded by Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) revenue; authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to execute an agreement with RICHMARK Entertainment for venue-related event costs estimated at \$3,000; authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to execute a purchase order for catering services for the conference, using County procurement and purchasing policy procedures at an estimated cost of \$6,000; and authorize DMH to purchase food and beverages for participants and County employees attending the conference, in exception to Los Angeles County Code Section 5.40.097, Incidental Expenses, which limits such purchases to \$500 per occurrence and \$5,000 annually.

#### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION**

These actions will allow DMH to co-host and conduct Another Kind of Valor Conference to be held on March 1, 2010, at the Brentwood VA Theatre. The conference is designed to provide 200 specially invited participants with a greater awareness of the painful issues faced by many returning veterans and their families and with effective tools and strategies to better serve them. This conference will encourage collaboration and streamline links among service providers in Los Angeles County to better serve veterans and their families. The goal is to create better coordinated and responsive

community partnerships to improve access to appropriate effective services. The purchase order with RICHMARK Entertainment is for various production costs including labor and equipment for preparation and set up of the facility. Expenditure of these funds by DMH helps leverage funding from VA and MIRECC to facilitate a superior event than would be possible had DMH conducted the event without these partners.

## **BACKGROUND**

Another Kind of Valor Conference is the first collaboration between DMH and the VA to raise awareness of the needs of returning veterans and their families and to promote community partnerships to better serve them. The conference is consistent with DMH's goal of promoting hope, wellness, and recovery.

The specially invited participants will include representatives of the following groups: mental health; substance abuse; physical health; law enforcement; emergency responders; educators; clergy; veterans and their families; veterans' service organizations; branches of the armed forces; attorneys; judges; and local, state, and national elected officials.

Another Kind of Valor Conference promotes integrated learning and includes a compelling series of vignettes that illustrate veterans' war zone experiences and homecoming adjustments. The vignettes were produced by Dan E. Weisburd, an international award-winning media professional, and will serve as a catalyst for stimulating discussion that will be led by Mr. Weisburd and other experienced facilitators. This innovative learning experience has been offered in other cities across the nation.

## **DMH Contact:**

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